



Great Western Railway 175th Anniversary Trail

This trail starts by the Information Point in the Great Hall

- 1 In Great Hall, enter the model railway next to the Simulator. Inside are two cabinets containing several **GWR-related O gauge models**. No.102 **La France** was imported from France to see how the locomotives compared to similar English locos. There's also a Great Western Atlantic Tank (4-4-2) locomotive, a GWR Crocodile well wagon and a model of 4040 **Queen Boadicea**, a "Star" class locomotive similar to **Lode Star**.
- 2 Turn left outside the model railway. The **nameplates** on the wall include examples from "Castle" class locomotives: No.7001 **Sir James Milne** (named after a GWR Board Member) and No.5070 **Sir Daniel Gooch** (named after the CME of GWR, 1902 – 1922).
- 3 Head for the turntable and cross it: to your immediate right is **4003 Lode Star**. This locomotive was built in February 1907 as part of the first production batch of "Star" class locomotives. It incorporates four cylinders with the Walschaerts valve gear, making it ideal for express work. It was the forerunner of many GWR designs.
- 4 Behind the locomotive tender is a case containing a **1/8th scale mode of King George V**, complete with scale tools.
- 5 Turn back to the turntable and find the actual **King George V**, a "King" class locomotive designed by C. B. Collett. Walk underneath to see the inside valve gear with the water scoop equipment below the tender.
- 6 After leaving the pit, head past the footbridge into the Warehouse. Just before you enter, note the **nameplate G J Churchward** on your right. Churchward was Chief Mechanical Engineer of the GWR from 1902-1922, and was killed by one of his own engines, **Berkeley Castle**, after he retired. Although hard of hearing and struggling with poor eyesight, he had noticed a defective sleeper on the mainline and decided to investigate. The approaching train sounded its whistle as a warning, but it went unheard and was unfortunately too late.



Great Western Railway 175th Anniversary Trail

In the Warehouse

7

Inside the Warehouse, turn left and find the large wooden wheels on a top shelf. These are **patterns for driving wheels** for a “Star” class, possibly used to make the driving wheels for **Lode Star**. Below this to the right is a model of Brunel’s timber viaduct. Notice, at the back of the tender, the person sitting inside a shield (known as a “coffin”). This extra guard looked back to ensure safety and check nothing was stolen. Apparently it was a very cold job.

8

Head back down the main warehouse walkway, past the **models of Gooch and Earl Of Devon** on your right. Look down the passageways on your left and you’ll find an **oak memorial plaque** above you, in memory of Henry West – killed by a whirlwind on a GWR station.

9

Head under Henry West’s plaque and on past the three cases of silver dining sets to find a **Gooch Speed Indicator** in a case on your left. This mechanical device gave an indication of speed, outputted onto a paper reel for further study at a later time.

In the Station Hall

10

From the Information Point, follow the route past the LNER Express Parcels Service truck to find **locomotive 2818**, built in 1905. This was one of the largest locomotives built by the GWR and was used for heavy mineral and freight trains. Notice the lamp irons in front of the smokebox – turned 90 degrees in relation to other railway companies, preventing them from “borrowing” them for their own locos.

Similar to other GWR locos, lubrication to some parts of 2818 is carried out using a hydrostatic lubricator – you can see it next to the reverser on the right hand side of the cab. Part of this system also requires a condenser coil, which can be seen attached to the cab floor above the driver’s head.

11

Turn right and follow the path towards the Royal Train display, past a cabinet with a **photo of Daniel Gooch** (taken 1845) and a model of **Firefly**. This is his own personal model, built just before the production batch.



Great Western Railway 175th Anniversary Trail

12

Walk along the red carpet alongside the Royal coaches. In the display cases by the royal trains you'll see **Royal train lamps** from around 1938, and a **Mantel clock** taken from the Royal waiting room at Windsor Station. Interestingly, whenever Queen Victoria travelled by train on the GWR, **Windsor Castle** was always used.

13

After you've finished exploring Station Hall, leave via the walkway near the timeline from earlier. As you descend the ramp, notice on your left a **Scammell Mechanical Horse**. These were used for the movement of small trailers with goods around depots and yards, and for local deliveries. It's painted in the traditional GWR colour scheme of chocolate and cream.

Drop in to Search Engine, our library and archive service, at any time to find out more about the Great Western Railway.